

In 1919: Pioneers Relate Beginning of Paper Mill

ANCIENT HISTORY IN CAMAS. The frontispiece on last issue to "Makin' Paper" "wound up" some of the old timers at Camas, with the result that stories and legends of the good old days were being freely swapped around the mill during the past few weeks.

Edie Butler claims to be the oldest man in the Camas mill. He says: "I landed here in 1884 and began working on the foundation of the old mill, helping with the construction and installation of the machinery. The present No. 8 was the only machine in this mill. We made straw paper in those days. There were only about 25 or 30 men working here then and I was a sort of a roustabout. I worked on every job from watchman to boss—that is, when the boss was sick."

"I was very glad to see the picture of the old mill in the last issue of 'Makin' Paper' but, say, where did you get those lower beds and the fine fence round the mill? It was never here in the old days. Some artist must have painted them. I would have looked more natural if it had shown a board sidewalk around the mill with several Chinamen with broad-brimmed hats walking on it."

"We had a great many Chinamen here in the early days. I can remember one afternoon when one of our frisky young jack tenders threw a handful of yellow straw pulp out of the window into a Chinaman's laundry basket. That Chinaman was sore and he went and told William Lewthwaite, the superintendent all about it. I happened to look out of the window just at that time and got the blame and had a hard time squaring myself with the boss."

"The boys used to do a lot of pulp throwing in those days, but that was before the days of Safety First. Now they don't do it any more."

"I have worked steadily here at the Camas mill ever since, for about a year ago and we thus been here for over thirty-five years."

Jack Harrington claims second honors with regard to age. He says:

"I came to Camas in 1886 as a foreman in the finishing room in the old mill, but it burned down about six months later, so I got a hammer and saw and helped build the second mill, which is still standing as that portion of the mill occupied by Nos. 3, 7 and 8 beater-rooms. Our present No. 8 was the only machine in the old mill and it used to turn out about four or five tons a day, which was considered a record in those days. That is quite different from the 200 tons day which we are in the habit of making now."

"There were a lot of Indians around here in those days and I remember once some of them were passing down the road just south of the mill that the boys threw some pulp at them, plastering one of the squaws with the soft, yellow pulp. Two of the Indians were very angry and came into the mill after the pulp throwers. The guilty ones, however, went away and hid and I, being innocent of what was going on, was the only man in sight when those two enraged Indians appeared. Of course, I was the goat, and they were going to scalp me, until I grabbed a four-foot length of pipe lying on the floor and drove them out of the mill. They were the happy days, to be sure."

"I have lived in Camas ever since and worked continuously in the mill, except for a couple of years when I was forced to lay off on account of sickness."

"I have seen every machine installed in the Camas mill and followed with great interest its development. Camas is certainly good enough for me."

Joe Teeson, millwright, began work in the old mill, only three days before the fire. He claims the longest continuous record of service in the Camas mill, as he worked steadily here ever since.

"My father, Thos. Teeson, Lewis Tidland, Ed Tidland's father, and a man named Eberhart had the contract to build the second mill," said Mr. Teeson. "I worked as carpenter on that building, alongside of Jack Harrington and Edie Butler. A portion of this old mill is still standing and houses Nos. 3, 7 and 8 beaters."

"When the mill was completed, I ran the grinders. We had only two, two pocket grinders then, making about six tons of pulp a day. Sulphite was shipped in, and was very scarce, so we used bleached straw largely to give the paper strength."

weeks for an accident a few years ago.

Hugh McMaster, one of Camas' leading merchants, and one of the early employees at the mill, came to Camas in September, 1883, with his father who opened up a general store on the old McMaster site.

Mr. McMaster said, "My first work for the company was clearing off the trees and stumps for the new mill. As a boy I had a contract or piece work, and only made about sixty cents a day. I helped with building the mill, and when it was completed, was 'broken in' as a backtender. Alex Lewthwaite was cutter boy, or winderman with me. One day I got my fingers caught in the calendars and badly mashed them, so Alex and I changed places. He taking my work and I took his job, laying paper, so that I would not have to lose any time."

"I have seen Camas grow from its very inception to the thriving little city which we are now pleased to call our home town."—MAKING PAPER, Vol. 1, No. 10, April 1919.

Draft Dodgers Rated Monument

THE SLACKER OBELISK. The Minute Men of Camas erected a monument on the main street of the town, and on it they have inscribed "Erected by the Minute Men of Camas in memory of those who refuse to support the nation that supports them."

This pillar stands not so much as a menace as an admonition and ever present reminder to those careless and selfish few whose grasping and nearsighted natures blind them to the fact that their accumulations here, would disappear before their eyes like the waters receding before the lips of Tantalus, should the Germans gain the mastery over our country.

Taxation without representation would be their lot, without redress and without hope. —MAKING PAPER, Vol. 1, No. 4, October 1918.

Mill Water Use Equals Portland's

It takes a lot of wood, water, power, energy and chemicals to run the Camas mill.

For example, the Camas division uses 40 million gallons of water daily, or approximately the same amount consumed each day by the city of Portland. The 336,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity used daily would fill the needs of a city of 400,000.

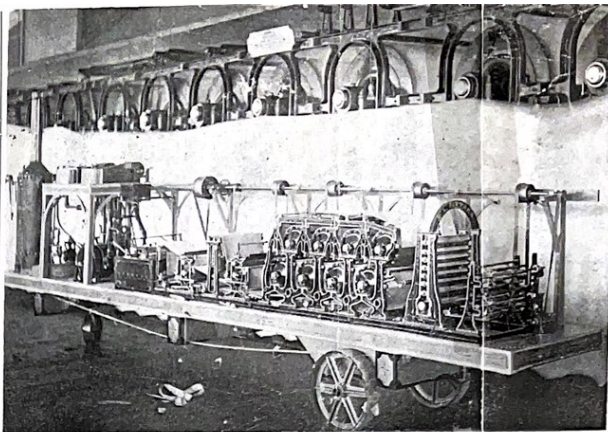
Every 24 hours, the mill consumes enough natural gas and fuel oil to heat 20,000 one family homes and 17 million pounds of steam daily which would pull a loaded freight train to New York and back.

The annual wood consumption is about 245 million board feet, of which 20 per cent comes in by rail car in the form of chips, most of the remainder by log raft and some by truck. One hundred thirty-seven tons of chemicals including sulphur, wax, lime rock, chlorine and starch are processed daily.

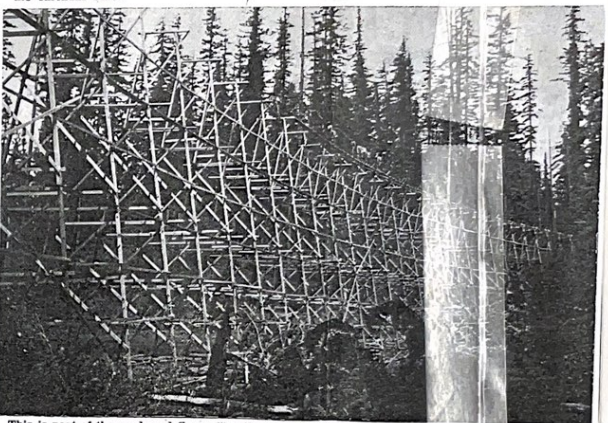
"This was long before there was a railroad to Camas and the paper was hauled to Portland in boats. Occasionally in the winter when the river froze up they had to haul the paper to the mouth of the Willamette river in sleighs. He had no good roads then either."

"I have been working steadily at Camas ever since, a continuous service of over 32 years, and have seen the Camas mill grow from a small beginning to one of the finest paper mills in the coast."

Aside from having the longest continuous service record in the Camas mill, Mr. Teeson holds a record of having worked practically every day during this long service period. The only time off, being a few



BABY MACHINE — This miniature cylinder machine was made by Joe Kaster at the old Camas mill in 1904. It was on exhibition at the Lewis and Clark Exposition, Portland, in 1905 and actually made paper. The foundation is 13 feet and hundreds of parts were required. Each part was perfect in detail. The paper made was 10 inches in width, dryer rolls eight inches in diameter, calendar rolls two and three inches and all other parts of the machine in proportion. The machine was named in honor of H. L. Pittcock as shown by the arch that surmounts the calendar stack.



This is part of the cordwood flume 11 miles long that brought wood and lumber from the mountains to Camas. Until 1905 the paper mill burned wood for fuel, up to 125 cords per day. This picture was taken by E. M. Haley in 1902 and shows the flume where it crossed the Butler scale about 1/4 mile northeast of the city reservoir. Height at the scale crossing was over 60 feet.—Picture courtesy Mrs. E. H. Tidland.



LONG AGO — Riding a carload of wood possibly headed for the grinder room of the Camas mill were these 11 workers, of a number of years ago. Identified in the front row are Bill Kimbrell, Merle Richardson and Dallas Platt (who just retired last August); second row: John Miller, John Ogle and John Kimbrell (who retired in 1933); and back row: Frank Bacon, Isaac Ogle and Harry Bacon.

"Saturday evening, September 14, 1913, marked the formal opening of the new Crown Willamette Hotel at Camas. The new structure was thrown open to the public and the people of Camas responded en masse and passed a favorable judgment which the company has built and dedicated to its bachelor employees."

"The new inn represents a cost of approximately \$100,000. It has hot and cold water in every room and is equipped with every means for comfort and sanitation employed in the finest hotels in the country." —MAKING PAPER, Vol. 1, October 1918.